

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-21, 23-27, and 29-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 3, 22, and 28 are canceled, and Claims 1, 4, 14, 19, 20, 23, 26, 29, and 31-33 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Title was objected to; Claim 14 was objected to; Claims 1, 20, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicants' acknowledged art (herein "the admitted art") in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 4-277771 to Takeyama; Claims 1, 20, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP 8-72308 to Takano in view of Takeyama; and Claims 2, 16-18, 21, 24, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takano in view of Takeyama and U.S. Patent No. 5,654,817 to De Loor; and Claims 3-15, 19, 22, 23, and 28-33 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Regarding the objection to the Title, a new Title is added that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the Title be withdrawn.

Further, regarding the objection to the claims, Claim 14 is amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection also be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1, 20, and 26 are amended to include features of allowable Claims 3, 22, and 28, respectively. In addition, Claims 4 and 14 are amended to depend on Claim 1, Claim 23 is amended to depend on Claims 20, and Claims 29, 31, and 32 are amended to depend on Claim 26. In addition, Claim 19 is re-written in independent form to

include features of Claim 1 and allowable Claims 18, and Claim 33 is re-written in independent form to include features of allowable Claims 26. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 1, 19, 20, 26, and 33, and each of the claims depending therefrom, are allowable, based on the indications of allowable subject matter in the Office Action.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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